Paddy procurement procedure

†3012. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the system evolved by the Chhattisgarh State Government to procure paddy from the farmers for the kharif crop this year;

(b) the funds earmarked by the State Government for this purpose;

(c) the assistance extended by the Central Government for the same; and

(d) the details of the proposed system for procurement of paddy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU: (a) to (d) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has been procuring paddy under the scheme of decentralized procurement introduced by the Central Governrment in 1997-98. Under this system, the State Governments procure, store and, also issue foodgrains as per allotments indicated by the Central Government under PDS. Purchase centres are opened by the State Govenments and their agencies as per their requirements. During the current kharif marketing season 2002-03 the State Government is procuring paddy through 1404 purchase centres being managed by cooperative agencies. A target for procurement of 50% of the total paddy produced in the State, conforming to FAQ specifications, from farmers on payment of MSP and Special Drought Relief Price has been set. The State Government has been sanctioned a Cash Credit Limit of Rs. 262.00 crores from the RBI, so far, for procurement of paddy. The Central Government undertakes to meet the entire expenditure incurred by the State Governments on the procurement operations as per the approved costing by way of reimbursing the difference between the economic cost of the State Government and the Central Issue Prices. The Central Government also monitors the quality of foodgrains procured under the scheme and reviews the arrangements made to ensure that the procurement operations are carried on smoothly.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.